

25 February 1995

Chaplain Activities

THE COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR CHAPLAINS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

This regulation defines the Covenant and Code of Ethics established by the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) as essential for all Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Chaplain Service members. It establishes professional standards of conduct to which they will be held accountable by the CAP command structure and by their respective endorsers.

SECTION A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Authority for the Code of Ethics. Clergy serve as members of the CAP Chaplain Service only as long as they hold a valid endorsement from a national religious body recognized by the U.S. Armed Forces Chaplains' Board. The parent organization for this group of endorsers is known as NCMAF. NCMAF unanimously approved this Covenant and Code of Ethics at its December 1994 meeting in Washington, DC.

2. Ministry to the Armed Forces. CAP provides the USAF with trained civilian resources for executing noncombatant USAF missions. CAP chaplains remain civilian resources to the Chief of Chaplains, USAF. They may be called upon to supplement the resources of the USAF Chaplain Service. For these reasons The Covenant appropriately refers to ministry to people who serve in the Armed Forces of our Country.

SECTION B - THE COVENANT

Having accepted God's Call to minister to people who served in the Armed Forces of our country, I covenant to serve God and these people with God's help; to deepen my obedience to the commandments, to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics of the Chaplains of the Civil Air Patrol, and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.

SECTION C - THE CODE OF ETHICS

I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of my religious body.

I will carefully adhere to whatever direction may be conveyed to me by my endorsing body for maintenance of my endorsement.

I understand as a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol that I must function in a pluralistic environment with chaplains of other religious bodies to provide for ministry to all Civil Air Patrol personnel and their families entrusted to my care.

I will seek to provide for pastoral care and ministry to persons of religious bodies other than my own within my area of responsibility with the same investment of myself as I give to members of my own religious body. I will work collegially with chaplains of religious bodies other than my own as together we seek to provide as full a ministry as possible to our people. I will respect the beliefs and traditions of my colleagues and those to whom I minister. When conducting services of worship that include persons of other than my religious body I will draw upon those beliefs, principles, and practices that we have in common.

I will, if in a supervisory position, respect the practices and beliefs of each chaplain I supervise, and exercise care not to require of them any service or practice that would be in violation of the faith practices of their particular religious body.

I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues throughout the military environment.

I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, and regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.

I will recognize that my obligation is to provide ministry to all members of the Civil Air Patrol, their families, and other authorized personnel. .

I will defend my colleagues against unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, or national origin.

I will hold in confidence any privileged communication received by me during the conduct of my ministry. I will not disclose confidential communications in public or in private.

I will not proselytize from other religious bodies, but I retain the right to evangelize those who are non affiliated.

I will show personal love for God in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the profession to which we have been called.

I will recognize the special power afforded me by my ministerial office. I will never use that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, religiously, emotionally, or sexually. I will use my pastoral office only for that which is best for the persons under my ministry.

OFFICIAL

DAVID MILLER
Chief of Administration

SECTION D - VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

3. CAP Channels. Alleged violations of the Code of Ethics will be administered by CAP Chaplain Service channels in the next senior echelon from the one in which the violation occurred. The Supervisory chaplain will investigate and counsel, as appropriate, violators in accordance with the principles listed in CAPP 221-A, *Chaplains Helping Chaplains*. Repeated, serious violations of the Code of Ethics may result in the involuntary termination of the clergy person's status as a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol after a hearing and due process described in CAPP 221-A. Termination of CAP membership or chaplain status may only be on grounds provided for and through procedures specified in CAP Regulation 35-3, *Membership termination*.

4. Religious Channels. Endorsers have the sole power to decide whether a violation of the Code of Ethics is cause for withdrawing endorsement. Should an endorsement be withdrawn for any reason, that clergy person immediately ceases to function as a CAP chaplain, loses the right to wear the badge of office, and loses all the privileges specified in CAP Regulation 265-1, *The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Service*.

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